

PATRIOTIC AND WAR SONGS.

The papers have been teeming for the last few weeks with the various German songs which have become popular during the present war in the German armies and cities...

line of attack to dwell on the long list of associations which endear the Rhine to the Germans. But Alfred de Musset in his reply immediately enters on a pungent and witty assault...

French patriotism is almost always aggressive, while German patriotism has hitherto been solely reinforced by a perhaps somewhat soft and sentimental analysis of the external loveliness and domestic joys of the German Fatherland...

Mein einziges Deutschland, mein freies Heer! Wir wollen ein Liedlein singen...

But then these are exactly the sort of didactic touches which only weaken either patriotic or war songs. They are really touches meant to "improve the occasion," of which German poetry has always been too fond...

Every truly national song has its inner as well as its outer note of nationality. Take even the songs sung by Tyrtus to the Spartans, and you will find the outer note of nationality in the proud and elaborate description of the Spartan hoplite and his armor...

What loathing there is for the foe in the fine imaginative burst—"Tout est soldat pour vous combattre; s'ils tombent, nos lances haïssent."

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